



**Director of
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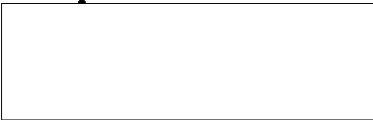
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ISRAEL-LEBANON: Latest Cease-Fire Holding

(Information as of 2300 EDT)

No significant violations of the cease-fire in Beirut were reported yesterday, but [] the 18-hour shelling of the city on Sunday was the most intense since the invasion began. An Israeli poll showed majority opposition to a military move into West Beirut. In Tunis, President Bourguiba has proposed that an Arab League summit be held there on Thursday to discuss Lebanon. []

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Artillery fire on Sunday between Israeli and Palestinian units encompassed the southern suburbs, extended north of the Corniche al Mazra'ah into West Beirut, and touched several areas of East Beirut. At least five shells hit the Presidential Palace. []

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The Israeli military command says 25 of its soldiers were wounded and three killed, but Lebanese and PLO sources report up to 70 Israeli casualties, including 11 killed. Lebanese police report 83 people killed and 211 wounded in Beirut during the shelling. []

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An Israeli military spokesman said the Palestinians used 130-mm guns in addition to the mortars and multiple rocket launchers they normally use. [] the intensity of the Palestinian shelling indicates the PLO has the will and ability to return fire on a significant scale. []

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Results of Israeli Poll

Almost 70 percent of Israelis oppose a military move into West Beirut, according to a poll carried out early this month. The poll also showed that over 80 percent approved Israel's invasion, and it recorded a steep rise in Prime Minister Begin's personal popularity since the fighting began. []

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Syrian Activity

The Israeli military command reported that Syrian troops fired on Israeli troops yesterday in eastern Lebanon, wounding three soldiers. []

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[] large numbers of Syrian

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armored vehicles moved through Shtawrah in the Bekaa Valley on Saturday, headed both east and west and on the highway south toward Qabb Ilyas. []

[] this activity may indicate a rotation of some Syrian units in the western Bekaa. []

Syrian media continue to underscore Damascus's opposition to allowing the 6,000 Palestinian fighters to move to Syria. The media stress that Syria has never been consulted about such a move and have highlighted anti-American themes. []

Comment: //Syria's continued rejection of PLO forces may not represent its final position. Before accepting the fighters now in Beirut, Syrian President Assad may want explicit US recognition of Syria's importance in a settlement.// []

//Assad also may want assurances or official recognition of Syria's right to remain in the Bekaa Valley. He is unwilling to relinquish control of the valley and probably fears the US and Israel intend to oust Syria, by negotiation or force. In addition, Assad may seek a large financial settlement from the Saudis in return for accepting what is evidently important to both the US and Saudi Arabia.// []

Comments on Prisoners

An Israeli spokesman on Sunday told Red Cross officials that Israel is holding about 9,000 Palestinian prisoners in a special camp in southern Lebanon. []

Arab League Summit Proposed

Tunisian President Bourguiba has called for an Arab League summit on Lebanon to be held in Tunisia on Thursday. Bourguiba's surprise request, issued shortly after a brief visit by Libyan leader Qadhafi to Tunisia last weekend, has received favorable responses from Kuwait, Morocco, Mauritania, Syria and Libya. []

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Comment: Such a hastily prepared meeting would only further expose the lack of Arab unity on this issue, and a delay in convening the summit seems almost certain. Bourguiba probably proposed the meeting to appease Qadhafi and to fend off growing domestic criticism of closer Tunisian-US relations.

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USSR: Ustinov on No-First-Use Pledge

Defense Minister Ustinov, in a toughly worded Pravda article yesterday, supported President Brezhnev's "no-first-use" policy while pledging that future defense efforts would be tied to US actions.

In defending the new policy, Ustinov warned that modern detection systems make it impossible to deliver a disarming first strike without suffering a devastating retaliatory blow. He also implied the new policy entailed further increases in Soviet military preparedness and command and control communications to minimize the danger of surprise attack. He hinted that Soviet spending on strategic nuclear forces will increase if the US carries out its strategic modernization program.

Comment: Ustinov's article is his most forceful attack on US defense policy to date, as well as a clear call for renewed peace demonstrations in the West. It also is the most spirited defense of Brezhnev's strategic defense policy in what has thus far been a muted internal debate over the adequacy of the Soviet strategic posture.

//The explanation of the "no-first-use" pledge may imply a commitment by the USSR to launch its strategic forces on tactical warning if the US attempts a disarming first strike. The suggestion that Soviet strategic forces may be further modernized probably reflects the leadership's increased concern about the vulnerability of Soviet ICBMs if the US deploys the MX and Trident D-5 missiles, one of the primary issues apparently involved in current Soviet defense deliberations. It also may presage imminent Soviet testing of a new solid propellant mobile ICBM.//

In addition, intimations of defense spending increases may be designed to mollify Marshal Ogarkov, Chief of the General Staff. He recently has issued stern public warnings to party officials that failure to provide for survivable strategic forces in peacetime may deprive the USSR of the ability to deter a surprise attack and avert a global nuclear catastrophe.

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USSR: On-Site Inspections

//The Soviets plan to begin negotiating an agreement--which probably will place their civilian pressurized-water nuclear power reactors under safeguards--with the International Atomic Energy Agency before the end of the year.// []

//The announcement by the deputy chairman of the Soviet Atomic Energy Committee follows the offer made by Foreign Minister Gromyko at the recent UN Special Session on Disarmament. In a similar explanation of Gromyko's UN comments, an official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stated the USSR's draft ban on chemical weapons would provide for quota on-site inspections under certain limited circumstances.// []

Comment: //These proposals are meant to respond to Western criticisms of the Soviet position on verification. The offer to allow on-site inspection of nuclear facilities--similar to others made by the US, the UK and France--is primarily a symbolic attempt to demonstrate Soviet support for international controls on nuclear proliferation.// []

//The Soviets will not offer to open all power reactors to inspection. They are unlikely to open their graphite-moderated reactors, which are adaptations of their plutonium production reactors.// []

//A Soviet agreement with the IAEA could provide a precedent for allowing limited international inspection of facilities in the USSR to verify some aspects of arms control agreements. The on-site inspection provisions of the Soviet draft treaty on a chemical weapons ban, however, indicate Moscow has no intention of granting even an international body unimpeded access to production facilities and storage sites. Moreover, the Soviets probably would not allow uninvited inspection of suspect activities.// []

//A recent article in a major Soviet journal intended for foreign audiences accepts in principle the need for on-site inspections in some arms control agreements but emphasizes they should be conducted by special international organizations and should be the exception rather than the rule. Both Soviet offers are consistent with this position and suggest Moscow probably would not accept the more rigorous measures required for monitoring such agreements.// []

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IRAN-IRAQ: Exchange of Threats

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[REDACTED] Tehran radio announced yesterday that a "historic battle is about to begin." Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hinted on Sunday that Iraq has a weapon to counter Iran's masses of infantry.// [REDACTED]

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Comment: //Saddam may have been referring to mustard gas. Iraq has filled artillery shells with the gas and might use it if the Iraqi Army seems threatened with a humiliating defeat. The several hundred artillery rounds they reportedly have would give them only a limited capability with the gas.// [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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USSR-FRANCE: Seeking Gas Pipeline Technology

//The USSR is attempting to acquire US technology, which is under embargo, for the production of anticorrosive coating material for gas pipelines.

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Comment: //The Soviets badly need high-quality pipecoating material for the construction of the gas pipeline because previous supplies of coating material from Japan were unsatisfactory.

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